

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /095 W

-----020909Z 090760 /11

R 291613Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1581

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS VIENNA 3490

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, SHUM, SREF, UR, AU

SUBJECT: EX-SOVIET JEWS SAY AUSTRIA VIOLATES HUMAN RIGHTS

1. AUSTRIA'S NON-COMMUNIST MEDIA HAVE DESCRIBED AS TRANS-PARENT KREMLIN PROPAGANDA AN APRIL 28 PRESS CONFERENCE OF EX-SOVIET JEWS FROM ISRAEL WHO CLAIMED THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS WERE BEING DENIED THEM BY AUSTRIA WHILE THEY AWAIT RETURN TO THE SOVIET UNION, BLAMED ZIONIST AND RADIO FREE EUROPE PROPAGANDA FOR HAVING LURED THEM TO ISRAEL, AND
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APOLOGIZED FOR HAVING LEFT THE USSR. THEY ALSO APPEALED TO THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT TO ASSURE THEM BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS AS GUARANTEED UNDER HUMAN RIGHTS PROVISIONS OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. SEVERAL

PAPERS CONCLUDED THAT THE SOVIETS WERE TRYING TO CREATE A PRETEXT FOR CHARGING AUSTRIA WITH HUMAN RIGHTS

VIOLATIONS AT THE CSCE FOLLOW UP CONFERENCE AT
BELGRADE LATER THIS YEAR.

2. THE PRESS CONFERENCE WAS ARRANGED BY AN "INITIATIVE
GROUP OF SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRANTS FROM ISRAEL" AND
CONDUCTED BY FIVE MEN PURPORTING TO SPEAK FOR 700 EX-
SOVIET JEWS STRANDED IN AUSTRIA ON THEIR WAY BACK FROM
ISRAEL. OTHER EX-SOVIET JEWS PRESENT CHALLENGED THE
RIGHT OF THE FIVE TO SPEAK FOR OTHER EX-SOVIET JEWS IN
AUSTRIA WHO, THE CHALLENGERS CLAIMED, WANTED MOSTLY TO
GO TO OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES NOT THE USSR. REPORTERS
WHO ASKED WHY THE SOVIETS HAD NOT SOLVED THE WHOLE
PROBLEM OF RETURNING JEWS SIMPLY BY GRANTING THEM
ENTRY VISAS AND OTHER EQUALLY POINTED QUESTIONS WERE
ANSWERED WITH LARGELY IRRELEVANT OUTBURSTS THAT ONLY

PROMPTED INCREASINGLY EMOTIONAL EXCHANGES AMONG THE
EX-SOVIET JEWS AND OTHERS PRESENT. PRESS CENTER
OFFICIALS FINALLY SUMMONED POLICE TO PREVENT POSSIBLE
VIOLENCE.

3. EAST EUROPEAN TELEVISION CREWS WERE ON HAND TO
RECORD THE EVENT. MEEHAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Sent Date: 29-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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